

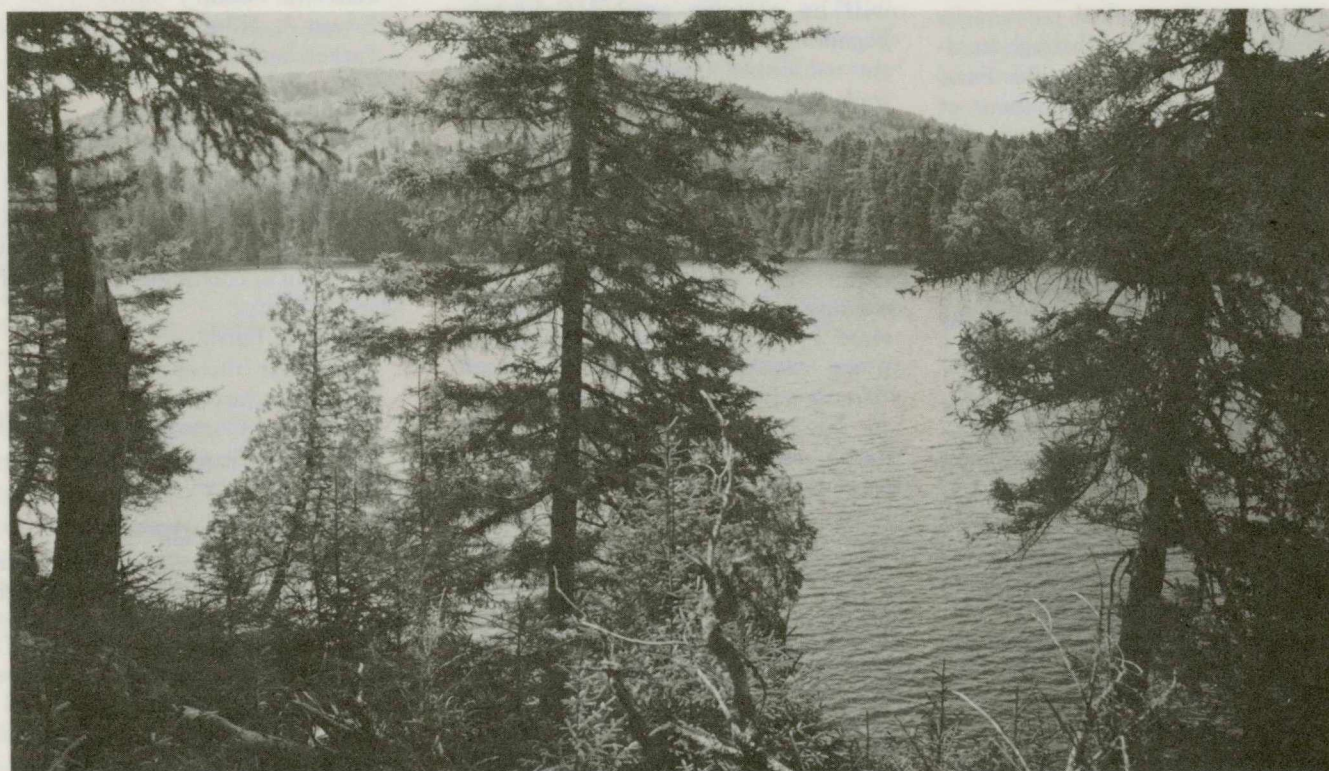
Maine Legacy

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The Nature Conservancy

Chapter acquires Big Reed Pond Preserve

to page four



A band of spruce and fir hugs the shore of Big Reed Pond.

The Kresge Foundation offers \$200,000 challenge grant for Big Reed Pond

Just before this newsletter went to press, we received the exceptionally good news that The Kresge Foundation of Michigan has made a \$200,000 challenge grant to the Big Reed Pond campaign. Kresge challenge grants are designed to help an organization that has a major capital campaign underway raise the balance needed to reach its goal. The foundation will match every dollar contributed to Big Reed, effectively doubling the worth of each gift, but the grant will not be paid unless and until all other funds needed to complete the campaign have been secured.

The Kresge Foundation was established by Sebastian Spering Kresge, who in 1899 began a chain of 5 and 10 cent stores that grew in number and profitably over the years. He instructed the trustees of the foundation to "serve the betterment of mankind," and for more than 60 years, Kresge grants have made critically important and lasting contributions to conservation, health care, education, social services and the arts.



the director's corner

by J. Mason Morfit, executive director

As I write this, we have just closed on Big Reed Pond. Doing so entailed a significant degree of risk, since we were still several hundred thousand dollars short of our \$1.1 million campaign goal.

To meet our cash obligations at closing, we will have to borrow (at below-market rates) from the Chapter's Land Preservation Fund, an internal revolving loan fund established to provide interim financing for land acquisition projects until permanent financing can be secured through fund-raising. (Interest earned on the Fund provides an important component of our operating budget.) We are once again grateful to the R.K. Mellon Foundation, life members, donors of bequests and others who've contributed to the Land Preservation Fund in anticipation of just such exigencies.

Within weeks, we hope to learn the disposition of a request to a major national foundation for a challenge grant to help complete the campaign. At this point, we definitely need all the help we can get, as we've already solicited virtually everyone we can readily identify as a prospective contributor to Big Reed Pond. If you've intended to make a gift, but somehow haven't gotten around to it, now is the time!

One very encouraging aspect of the Big Reed Pond campaign has been the recent deluge of contributions, primarily in response to our "invest in Big Reed" mail solicitation, many from people who have never before supported the Conservancy. Literally thousands of individuals have so far made gifts toward the protection of New England's largest and most diverse virgin forest. In fact individuals, as opposed to corporations and foundations, have accounted for 94 percent of all funds contributed or pledged to date. (More than 20 percent of that has come from the Conservancy's "immediate family": Trustees, former Trustees, members of the national Board of Governors, and staff.)

The success of the Big Reed Pond campaign so far demonstrates that there exists, to a degree that many would not

otherwise believe, a broad base of public support for the protection of Maine's rarest and most threatened natural areas, apart from whatever immediate recreational, scenic or other personal benefits such areas may offer the donor. In the case of Big Reed Pond, fewer than one percent of the donors to date have been there; and, given its remoteness and the difficulty of the terrain, perhaps as few as ten percent are likely to get there. (We will be offering guided field trips beginning in 1988. However, to preserve the wilderness quality of the area, no trails will be developed and access will remain difficult.)

Something beyond the enlightened self-interest of "protecting one's own backyard" is at work here. To some degree, it may be Big Reed's historic, cultural and symbolic values—as a last example of the primeval forest encountered by the European colonists, as a living remnant of the Great North Woods celebrated by Thoreau, as one of the last pieces of the New World that hasn't yet been used—that has attracted support. But it's also clear, from the letters and calls accompanying some gifts, that many people are specifically interested in protecting the full array of biotic diversity, the genetic reservoirs that are crucial components of our biological life support systems. Whether intuitive or intellectual or both, this broad-based motivation bodes well for Big Reed Pond and for subsequent efforts to protect outstanding examples of Maine's natural heritage.



Lissa Widoff

Memorial gifts

Gifts in memory of the following individuals have been received by the Maine Chapter:

Helen Abell
Rudolf J. Baker
Leon Prescott Brooks
Ethel Moyer Dyer
Gordon Johnson
William and Gertrude Gray
Edward L. Hall
Frank Haseltine
Fred Hillman
Victor Kusch
Helen Loeffler
Harriette Nason
Ernest A. Niles
Parker Sanborn
Claire Patricia Stoner
Patricia A. Wollenberg
Dr. and Mrs. James F. Woodbury

Corporate memberships

We are pleased to have received support from the following, and welcome them as corporate members of the Maine Chapter.

Atkinson Furniture
Champion International
Cooper Industries, Inc.
Diversified Communications
Hannaford Brothers Co.
Peoples Heritage Bank

Foundation support

We are pleased to recognize and thank the following foundations for their support of the Maine Chapter.

Betterment Fund
Friends of Nature, Inc.
G.H. Milliken Foundation
Maine Community Foundation
Rosamund Thaxter Foundation

New life members

Any gift of \$1,000 or more to the Maine Chapter Land Preservation Fund provides a life membership for the donor and spouse in the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. All such gifts furnish a long-term source of support to help save land here in Maine.

We are pleased to welcome as new life members:

Mrs. C.C. Madeira
Ruth E. Pope
Sharon and Peter Robohm
Michael Seitzinger
Joel M. White
Nicholas Wilder



in the news



Cooperative agreement reached for Damariscove life-saving station

In early 1986, the abandoned Coast Guard life-saving station on Damariscove Island was bought by Charles Whitten and Barry Ryan. Since then, they have begun to restore the graceful and picturesque Queen Anne-style building, which has now been entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

After several discussions concerning issues of shared tenancy, the Conservancy has reached a cooperative agreement with the station's new owners. This agreement defines the rights and responsibilities of both parties regarding access, liability and insurance. Most important, it requires the development of a mutually acceptable management plan for use of the station and its small lot.

Bill Blair receives national conservation awards

Bill Blair, president emeritus of The Nature Conservancy and Maine Chapter trustee, recently received two of the nation's most prestigious conservation awards.

The Audubon Naturalist Society presented Bill with their highest honor, the Paul Bartsch award, at a dinner held at the Smithsonian. This award is given periodically to persons who have made significant contributions to conservation and natural history study. Other recipients have included Rachel Carson, Roger Tory Peterson and David Brower.

The night after the Smithsonian dinner, Bill was one of 20 individuals and five organizations presented with a Chevron Conservation Award. The Chevron Conservation Awards are given to individuals and organizations who have selflessly devoted themselves to the conservation of natural resources and enhancement of the environment.

The award cited Bill's efforts as president of the Conservancy, noting that in the face of severe cutbacks in federal land conservation measures, the

Conservancy under Bill's leadership raised more than \$150 million to protect rare species of plants, animals and natural ecosystems.

Ed Meadows appointed public lands director

Former Chapter trustee Ed Meadows has been appointed to the position of director of Maine's Bureau of Public Lands. He will be responsible for managing the state's 450,000 acres of public lands.

In his former position of director of governmental affairs and communications for Seven Islands Land Company, Ed played a key role in developing the exchange agreement that resulted in the Conservancy's acquisition of Big Reed Pond Preserve. For seven years, he was an active and valued member of the Chapter Board, serving as vice-chairman and as chairman of the stewardship and nominating committees.

We look forward to working with Ed in his new position as Director of Public Lands.

Planning to visit the islands? Chapter island use code

With 39 island preserves, the Conservancy is the largest private owner of islands along the Maine coast. The Chapter has just reprinted its island use code, and we encourage you to read it before venturing out. The flyer describes appropriate use of the island preserves. It also lists the Conservancy's islands, noting which are seabird nesting islands that require special protection.

For a copy of the island use code, please write to the Chapter office at P.O. Box 338, 122 Main Street, Topsham, ME 04086. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (standard business size) if possible.

Public lands brochure

Several hundred of Maine's 3,000 islands are owned by the state Bureau of Public Lands. Most of these are small, barren, tidal and unapproachable. Many others have nesting seabird populations or fragile vegetation and rare plants.

However, recent surveys have revealed that a few dozen of these state-owned islands can support a light or moderate amount of recreational use, including low-impact camping. A brochure describing these islands has just been published by the state Bureau of Public Lands.

The brochure lists 42 islands from Casco Bay to Passamaquoddy Bay that are suitable for people to visit. It also provides a great deal of critical information about safe and thoughtful use of islands.

To obtain a copy of this useful pamphlet, please contact the Bureau of Public Lands, Station 22, Augusta, ME 04333; telephone: 289-3061.

Annual meeting September 26, Bethel

Don't forget this year's annual meeting! During the day, we will explore the mountains, lakes and special places of the region. We will then settle in for an evening at the Bethel Inn with the annual meeting, reception, dinner and our special guest speaker, Conservancy president Frank Boren.

Accommodations for fall weekends in this prime leaf-viewing area fill up fast, so we suggest that you make your reservations early. The following are just a few possibilities; please make your arrangements directly with the inn or campground.

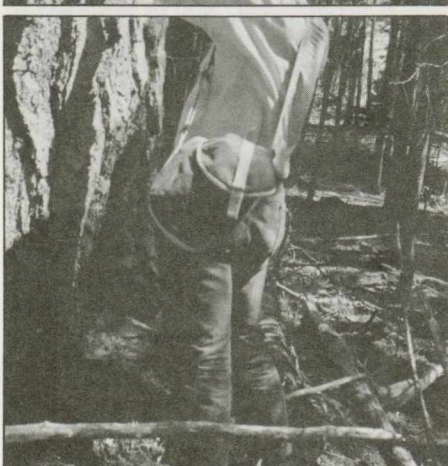
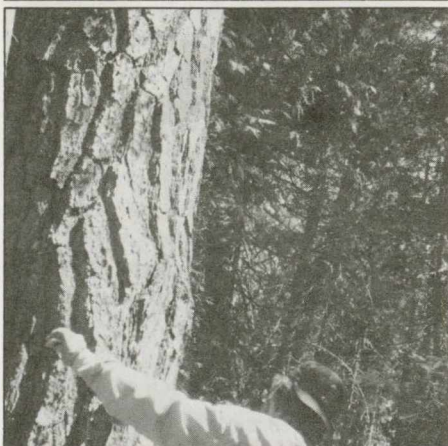
Inns

The Chapman Inn, 824-2657
Hammons House, 824-3170
Four Seasons Inn, 824-2755
Norseman Inn, 824-2002
L'Auberge Country Inn, 824-2774

Campgrounds

Lone Pine Campgrounds, 824-2554
Pleasant River Camping, 836-3575
Stonybrook Recreation, 824-2789

Full details about the Annual Meeting, complete with registration information, will be in the August newsletter.



A white pine worthy of the title "King's Pine."



Big Reed Pond.

Big Reed Pond Preserve

It's official: the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is now the owner of a 3,800-acre preserve protecting New England's largest virgin forest wilderness at Big Reed Pond.

As part of the Big Reed Pond sale agreement, the state Bureau of Public Lands sold six public lots to the Conservancy; the Conservancy then traded these lots for the land owned by the Pingree Heirs at Big Reed Pond. Another exchange between the Pingrees and the BPL netted the state additional public lands along the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, including Allagash Mountain.

The Chapter had raised more than \$750,000 of its \$1.1 million goal before closing on the property. To cover the balance, the Chapter took out a loan from the Conservancy's Land Preservation Fund. This revolving loan fund was established by the R.K. Mellon Foundation, and has been added to over the years through gifts and bequests from many Conservancy benefactors. Loans from the fund provide interim financing for land acquisition projects until permanent financing can be secured through fund raising.

The Chapter hopes to repay the Land Preservation Fund as soon as possible, to keep interest costs low and to free up the money to protect more land.

Literally thousands of people have contributed to the Big Reed campaign.

Almost 95 percent of the money raised for Big Reed Pond has come from generous individuals, both in Maine and across the country.

The campaign was launched last year with more than \$150,000 in donations from Conservancy trustees and staff. The Pingree family, which kept the Big Reed land unspoiled for many generations, also made a generous pledge to the campaign. Another outstanding initial gift was made by longtime Conservancy supporter Robert Crowell in memory of his father. A square mile of the forest will be named in honor of Thomas Irving Crowell.

Several foundations, including the Betterment Fund, the G.H. Milliken Foundation, Friends of Nature, the Guy P. Gannett Foundation and the Maine Community Foundation, also contributed critical support to the Big Reed effort.

Big Reed Pond protects the largest intact remnant of the unbroken forest wilderness that once stretched from York to Fort Kent. The area is remote and access is difficult; no roads or trails lead to the preserve. In order to protect the old-growth forest and its value as a research natural area, visitation to the preserve is discouraged.

The best way to see and understand the Big Reed forest is with an expert guide. The Chapter plans to offer periodic field trips to the preserve beginning next year.

Lissa Widoff

Lissa Widoff

Kennebunk Plains purchase completed

On June 10, the Chapter's associate director Kent Wommack and stewardship director Barbara Vickery met Earle and Oka Campbell in a lawyer's office in Kennebunk to officially complete the sale of 120 acres of the Kennebunk Plains to The Nature Conservancy.

The sale of the land was delayed for several months by a confused title. Coastal Blueberry Service, which owns the adjacent blueberry barrens, agreed to sell its interest in a portion of the land the Conservancy planned to acquire, clearing the way for the final sale.

Earle Campbell, and his sons Harold and Paul, have owned the property for 40 years and care deeply about its preservation. The Campbells' willingness to reduce the price for the Conservancy was a key factor in TNC's ability to protect this land.

"I've lived in Maine all my life. My wife and I met on the Plains—she was stealing my blueberries," said Earle. His wife Oka expressed their feelings about protecting the Plains. "I hate to see housing projects going in where there used to be beautiful fields...and it's



Earle and Oka Campbell join Chapter stewardship director Barbara Vickery in celebrating the Chapter's acquisition of the Kennebunk Plains.

be sprayed with the herbicide Velpar."

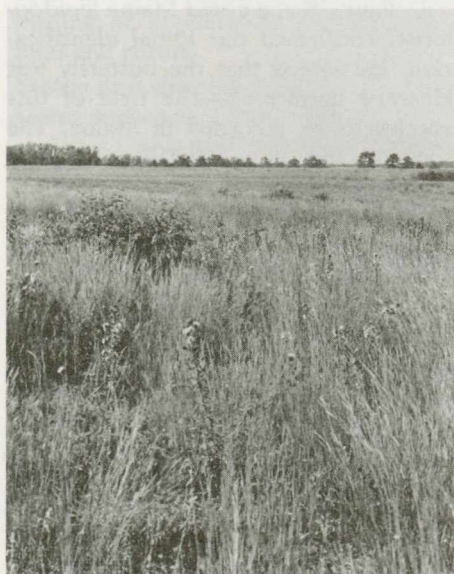
Velpar, or hexazinone, is a broad-spectrum herbicide used by blueberry growers to control competing weeds in their fields. It eliminates the bunching grasses the grasshopper sparrows need for nesting, as well as other unique and

threatened Plains species such as the northern blazing star.

Vickery's studies have shown that the breeding population of grasshopper sparrows has steadily declined in the face of this habitat destruction. In 1984, 30 pairs nested. Last year, only 19 pairs actually nested, and there were many "floaters" who stayed at the Plains, but never found suitable breeding habitat.

This season is just beginning, but at least a dozen pairs are ready to nest. About a third of the sparrows seem to have picked the Conservancy's preserve land.

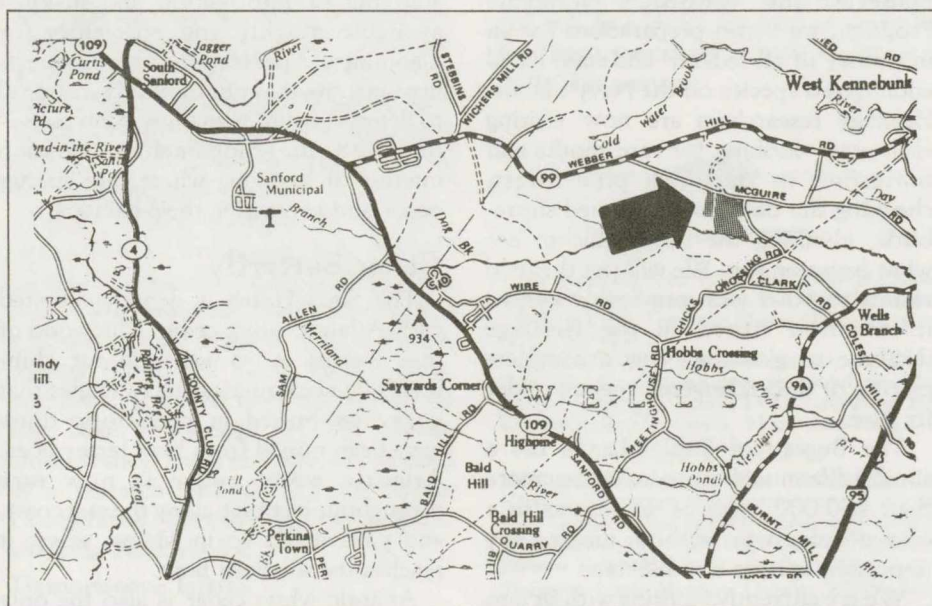
The Kennebunk Plains shelter the only large breeding population of grasshopper sparrows in Maine. (Three to four pairs have been found at the Brunswick Naval Air Station. Please see the Heritage column in this issue.) This summer, Peter Vickery and Jeff Wells will again be conducting a census of the birds, and monitoring breeding success.



The Kennebunk Plains

happening all around," said Oka. "We love the wildflowers and the birds, and didn't want to see it change. We really wanted the Conservancy to have it."

Ornithologist Peter Vickery has studied the birds at the Plains for the past three years. "The acreage the Conservancy is acquiring is increasingly important," he explained. "It's all the more critical because almost all of the remainder of the Plains has been or will



The Kennebunk Plains is located along Route 99 and McGuire Road in Kennebunk. The endangered grasshopper sparrows and other nesting birds at the Plains can usually be seen (and heard) by walking along McGuire Road. Please be careful to stay on the road and off the blueberry fields, to avoid disturbing the nesting birds and trespassing on the commercial blueberry lands.

In late summer, the Plains is an expanse of purple glory as thousands of northern blazing star bloom. The Chapter is offering a field trip on Saturday, September 5* to study the unusual Plains flora.

*Field trip #11. **Flora of the Kennebunk Plains**, Saturday, Sept. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon. \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers. Meet at I-95 Exit 3 southbound, West Kennebunk.

Please be sure to give your summer address and phone number, and note the number of members and nonmembers. Send this information along with a check for the total amount to Maine Chapter, The Nature Conservancy, P.O. Box 338, Topsham, ME 04086. If you still have your field trip flyer, please fill out the handy form and send it with your check.

Every day at the Brunswick Naval Air Station, jet-prop submarine hunters and fighter planes roar off the runways—right over at least three pairs of grasshopper sparrows, one of Maine's rarest birds.

The U.S. Navy is bound by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, which requires all federal agencies to conserve endangered species protected under the act. This means that the Navy must first determine which, if any, endangered species occur on their properties and then ensure that its land use activities do not harm these species.

The Navy owns more than 30,000 acres in Maine. In addition to the special strip of grassland inhabited by the grasshopper sparrows, natural communities under Navy ownership range from pitch pine barrens to mudflats, coastal peatlands to mountaintops.

Last year, working in conjunction with the state Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Nongame Program, we began preparations for an inventory of all federal- and state-listed endangered species on the Navy's lands. Heritage researchers are now visiting each area—looking for rare moths and butterflies in the pitch pine forest, checking the flats for threatened shorebirds, climbing the mountains to see what grows on top. We will put the field results together with previously known information stored in the Heritage database to give the Navy a complete picture of the endangered species under its care.

The Bureau of Public Lands has a similar dilemma: how to inventory more than 450,000 acres of wilderness in a cost-effective way, without missing any important species and habitats.

We are currently working with BPL to develop an inventory method to help solve their problem. The Heritage Program has catalogued the rare features known to occur on the state's public reserved lands. We also know which rare species and habitats occur in the vicinity of each public land unit. By combining our knowledge of the special habitats needed by the rare species with BPL's knowledge of the types of habitat available in each unit, we can identify the species most likely to be found and know where to look for them.

This "targeted" approach is more efficient than looking at every acre of

public land, yet still assures that all potentially unique habitats will be surveyed.

There are other ways the Heritage Program data management and inventory planning capabilities are helping public and private groups in Maine. Some projects are:

- automating the Critical Areas Program database using the Heritage Program's computerized data management system;
- conducting inventories for rare species at a dozen Central Maine Power hydropower facilities;
- working with the State Planning Office to develop a comprehensive map and index file to sensitive natural habitats, which will be distributed to state regulatory agencies as well as local and regional planning boards.

The Heritage Program is more than an inventory of rare species. Its primary value is the ability to manage large amounts of information and make it available quickly and efficiently for planning and protection. These projects demonstrate that our methods are useful to diverse groups with diverse interests—but with the fundamental common interest of knowing where rare species occur and protecting their habitats.

Cedar butterfly

The Saco Heath is densely forested with Atlantic white cedar. The wood of this species is so valuable for shipbuilding, construction and shingles that large logs buried in prehistoric times have been mined from New Jersey bogs. Atlantic white cedar is now rare throughout its range along the east coast, and particularly so in Maine, where it reaches its northern limit.

Atlantic white cedar is also the only host plant for Hessel's hairstreak

(*Mitoura hesseli*), a small brown butterfly with brightly patterned green underwings. Its caterpillars feed exclusively on the leaves of this tree. The butterfly's numbers have declined in recent years, following the dwindling range of Atlantic white cedar.

The northern limit of Hessel's hairstreak was recorded as southern New Hampshire. Knowing this, one day in mid-May we went to Saco Heath hoping to find the butterfly.

It was the ideal time to look for the butterfly. The day was bright and clear, perfect for a butterfly search. Early-flying butterflies like the Hessel's hairstreak typically have short flight seasons. They fly only on the few days that are sunny. Given Maine springs, this means that there are precious few chances to see them.

In spite of the good weather, we saw only a small number of butterflies, mostly brown elfins and pine elfins nectaring on the early flowers of Labrador tea. To our good fortune, though, one of the butterflies that we did see was indeed Hessel's hairstreak.

L. Paul Grey, a noted Maine lepidopterist, confirmed our initial identification. He agreed that the butterfly was Hessel's hairstreak—the first of this species to be recorded in Maine. The species' range now officially extends at least to Saco.

Hessel's hairstreak is completely dependent upon Atlantic white cedar. The Conservancy's Saco Heath forest is one of the most significant stands of Atlantic white cedar in the northeast, and is one of the few protected stands known to sustain a population of this threatened butterfly. The little emerald-colored hairstreak is a jewel that adds immeasurably to the value of the Saco Heath.



Heritage Director John Albright at the Saco Heath in search of butterflies.

Julie Henderson

Research grants 1987

This year's Research Contracts Program will allow the Chapter to learn more about rare sedges, threatened plants in southern Maine, lichens in old-growth forests, and vegetation changes in fens. In detail, the projects to be funded are:

Further investigations of lichens as indicators of old-growth forests

Steven B. Selva, PhD

Dr. Selva will continue his study of the lichens in the old-growth forest at Big Reed and extend his investigations to other small examples of old-growth and previously cut mature forests. Lichens can serve as indicators of lack of disturbance in forests, and the Big Reed forest has revealed an impressive diversity of lichen species after just one summer's fieldwork.

Recent history of vegetation and fire at Little Crystal Fen

George Jacobson, PhD, Heather Jacobson and Chris Winne

Using aerial photos, soil cores, vegetation surveys and other techniques, this team will study the historic changes in the fen, especially the possible role of natural fires and hydrologic influences in retarding or accelerating dominance by trees and shrubs.

Status and distribution of *Carex oronensis*, Orono sedge

Alison Dibble and Christopher Campbell, PhD

UMO graduate student Alison Dibble and Dr. Campbell will attempt to rediscover *Carex oronensis*, a species found only along the Penobscot River in the Orono area. The sedge was last seen in 1978 and is a candidate for listing as a federal endangered species. If they are successful, they will do the thorough taxonomic study and inventory that will be required for federal listing.

Inventory of selected rare plant species in York and Cumberland counties

Phil Keenan and John Lortie

Phil Keenan will be searching York County for several rare plants, including fringed gentian, southern rein orchid and northern blazing star. John Lortie will also be looking for rarities in southern Maine, specifically focusing on variable sedge, *Carex polymorpha*. This sedge is found in a very narrow geographic range and restricted to coastal sandplains. It will soon be listed as a threatened species by the federal government.



Kent Wommack

Stewardship director Barbara Vickery (l) and the Chapter's new stewardship assistant Julie Henderson.

New staff

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of the Maine Chapter staff. They bring an impressive diversity of skills to the Chapter's work, and are full of energy and enthusiasm. We hope you will have a chance to meet them during the summer.

Stewardship assistant

Stewardship assistant Julie Henderson is the newest addition to the Chapter's year-round staff. This summer she will be designing stewardship plans for the Chapter's new lands, including the Saco Heath and Brimstone Islands preserves. Throughout the year, she will be sharing Chapter stewardship responsibilities with Barbara Vickery, director of science and stewardship. Working with volunteer land stewards on stewardship activities for the preserves will be one of her most important tasks.

As a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon, Julie assisted in habitat research on great gray owls and Rocky Mountain elk. She has conducted a census of bald eagles in Alaska for the federal Bureau of Land Management, and inventoried the flora and fauna of a lake basin in Oregon for The Nature Conservancy. Most recently, she worked as a research assistant for the Maine Cooperative Forestry Research Unit, studying black ducks.

Damariscove Island caretaker-naturalists

This summer's caretaker-naturalists are Louise Robbins and C.D. Smith. Louise, a botanist for the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, is familiar with the Maine coast through her long association with her family's summer home in Sorrento. At 14, C.D. was a full-fledged fishing guide on Florida's gulf coast. He has worked at a variety of jobs, from greenhouse caretaker to opera construction artist, but is first and foremost a practicing artist.

Douglas Mountain caretaker

Bette Ann Low, a naturalist and

environmental educator, will be looking after Douglas Mountain this summer. She has served as a volunteer trail worker at Baxter State Park, docent at Wells Estuarine Sanctuary, regional coordinator of the Maine Loon Watch, and teacher at Maine Audubon's Scarborough Marsh Nature Center.

Seawall Beach plover-tern warden

In May, Susanne Blood of Harpswell was already hard at work putting up fencing to protect the tern and piping plover nesting colonies on Seawall. (See page seven.) Recently retired from her job as media specialist at Freeport High School, Sue looks forward to devoting her time to watching over the endangered birds this summer.

Maine Legacy

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Virginia Lake transferred to White Mountain National Forest

The Maine Chapter has transferred nearly 1,900 acres surrounding Virginia Lake in Stoneham and Lovell to the White Mountain National Forest.

Acquisition of Virginia Lake, the largest unspoiled lake in the White Mountain region, has been a top priority for the national forest for more than a decade. "The area is especially important as a wildlife habitat and a setting for low-impact recreation," said Dick Martin, U.S. Forest Service appraiser. "By protecting this property, we have assured future generations that Virginia Lake will remain in its present natural condition for their use and enjoyment."

After more than six years of negotiations, the U.S. Forest Service and the

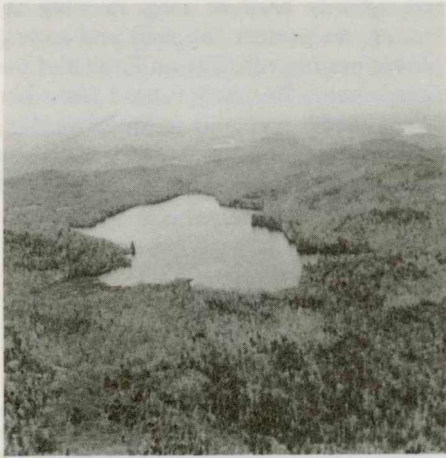
landowners asked the Conservancy's assistance in solving a number of problems blocking the addition of Virginia Lake to the national forest. The Chapter was able to help protect this beautiful and special lake by working out an arrangement acceptable to both the Forest Service and the landowners.

One major obstacle was the landowners' need to sell the property before the end of 1986. Although Congress had appropriated the money for the Virginia Lake purchase, it was clear that the funds would not be available until mid-1987.

The Conservancy frequently helps out in these situations by buying a property and holding it until government funds become available. On December 30, 1986, the Chapter purchased the land for \$925,000, with the understanding that the property would be transferred to the national forest the following year. As with all the Chapter's transferred lands, Virginia Lake will be monitored annually.

"We're very pleased that the Conservancy could work with us on this one," said Martin. "A great deal of the credit for our success must be attributed to their efforts."

The secluded and unspoiled Virginia Lake area is habitat for loons and moose, and a favorite recreation spot in the region. The Forest Service will manage the property for dispersed recreational activities such as boating, hiking and cross-country skiing.



Kent Womack

Virginia Lake

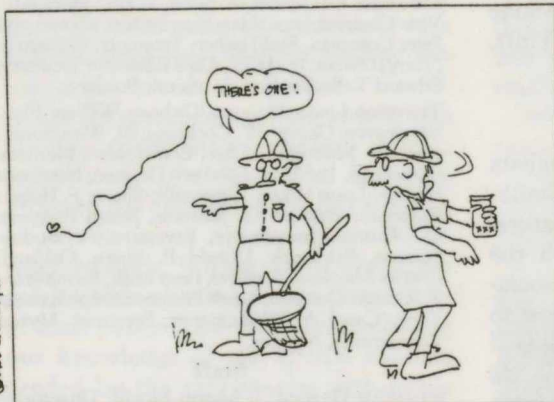


Dorcas S. Miller

Public lands for Maine bond issue

Chapter executive director Mason Morfit appeared before the state Legislature's Appropriations Committee, testifying in favor of the public land bond issue. Scores of people, many of them Maine Chapter members, also went to Augusta to offer their support at the May public hearing.

The proposed \$50 million bond issue for state acquisition of natural lands has drawn wide and enthusiastic backing from across the state. As of mid-June, the bill is still under debate in the Legislature. A vote on the measure is expected before the end of the session.



PROFESSORS WILSON AND BEAN CONDUCT THEIR FAMOUS SOLITARY BEE SURVEY.



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